Appendix A Preliminary CHART Assessment for the California Coastal (CC) Chinook ESU

ESU Description

The CC chinook ESU was listed as a threatened species in 1999 (64 FR 50394). The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of chinook salmon from rivers and streams south of the Klamath River to and including the Russian River. Following completion of an updated status review (NMFS 2003a) and review of hatchery populations located within the range of the ESU (NMFS 2003b), NMFS recently proposed that the ESU remain listed as a threatened species and that seven hatchery populations be included as part of the ESU (69 FR 33102; June 14, 2004). Major watersheds occupied by naturally spawning fish in this ESU include Redwood Creek, Mad River, Eel River, several smaller coastal watersheds, and the Russian River. A Technical Recovery Team has been formed and is in the process of identifying the historical and extant population structure of this ESU; however, this work has not been completed.

CHART Area Assessments

The CHART assessment for the CC chinook ESU addressed 45 occupied CALWATER Hydrologic Subareas (HSAs) organized or nested in 8 CALWATER Hydrologic Units (HUs) or subbasins (Figures A1 and A2). The CALWATER HSAs were chosen as freshwater critical habitat units because they present a convenient and systematic way to organize the CHART's watershed assessments for this ESU. In addition to the 45 HSA watershed units, conservation assessments were also made for Humboldt Bay and the Eel River Estuary. Information presented below for individual HUs (size, counties, total stream miles, occupied stream miles, and habitat use) were generated from GIS data sets compiled by NMFS Southwest Region (NMFS 2004a)

Unit 1. Redwood Creek Subbasin (HU 1107)

The Redwood Creek HU is located in the northern portion of the ESU and includes the Redwood Creek drainage. The HU encompasses approximately 294 mi² and occurs completely within Humboldt County. The HU contains 3 HSAs, all of which are occupied, and 343 stream miles (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 107 miles of occupied

riverine and estuarine habitat in the occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied riverine and estuarine areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) and identified several management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat for each HSA watershed that contains spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A1 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 2. Trinidad Subbasin (HU 1108)

The Trinidad HU is located in the northern portion of the ESU and includes Big Lagoon and Little River. The HU encompasses approximately 131 mi² and occurs completely within Humboldt County. This HU contains 2 HSAs, both of which are occupied, and 161 stream miles (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 26 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the 2 occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat identified for each HSA watershed that contains spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A2 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 3. Mad River Subbasin (HU 1109)

The Mad River HU is located in the northern portion of the ESU and includes the Mad River drainage. The HU encompasses approximately 499 mi² and occurs in portions of Humboldt and Trinity Counties. This HU contains 4 HSAs, 3 of which are occupied, and a total of 661 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 53 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the 3 occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs.

Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A3 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 4. Eureka Plain Subbasin (HU 1110)

The Eureka Plain HU is located in the vicinity of Eureka and surrounds Humboldt Bay. The HU encompasses approximately 224 mi² and occurs completely within Humboldt County. This HU contains a single HSA which is occupied and a total of 269 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 74 miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat in the occupied HSA (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. The CHART also evaluated Humboldt Bay into which most of the freshwater stream in this subbasin drain as a separate habitat unit. Humboldt Bay contains approximately 25 mi² of estuarine habitat which the CHART found contained PCEs for rearing and migration and was of high conservation value. Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat in the HSA that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A4 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 5. Eel River Subbasin HU (1111)

The Eel River HU is located in north central portion of the ESU and includes the Eel River and Van Duzen River drainages. The HU encompasses approximately 3,682 mi² and occurs in portions of several counties including: Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, Colusa, and Tehama. This HU, which is the largest in this ESU, contains 19 occupied HSAs and 5,194 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 841 miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat in the occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs

(i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A5 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 6. Cape Mendocino Subbasin (HU 1112)

The Cape Mendocino HU is located in the central portion of the ESU and includes the Bear River and Mattole River drainages. This HU encompasses approximately 499 mi² and occurs almost entirely in Humboldt County. This HU contains 3 HSAs, 2 of which are occupied, and 654 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 173 miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat in the 2 occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A6 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 7. Mendocino Coast Subbasin (HU 1112)

The Mendocino HU is located in the southern portion of the ESU in portions of Humboldt and Mendocino Counties and includes several smaller streams including the Ten Mile, Noyo, Albion, Navarro, and Garcia Rivers. This HU which encompasses approximately 1,598 mi² contains 18 HSAs, 7 of which are occupied, and 2,103 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 204 miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat in the 7 occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table A1

summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine habitat identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A7 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 8. Russian River Subbasin (HU 1114)

The Russian River HU is located in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties in the southernmost portion of the ESU and includes the Russian River drainage and its tributaries. The HU encompasses approximately 1,482 mi² and 1,872 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). The HU contains 11 HSAs with 10 in the range of the ESU, and 9 of which are occupied. Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 133 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the 9 occupied HSAs (NMFS, 2004a). The CHART concluded these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table A1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine habitat identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map A8 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for critical habitat designation. The team did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

CHART Preliminary Conservation Value Rating

Freshwater/Estuarine Areas

After reviewing the best available scientific data regarding the distribution and habitat use for the CC chinook ESU, the CHART concluded that most of the occupied HSAs were of high or medium conservation value to the ESU. Of the 45 occupied HSAs that were evaluated, 27 were rated as having high conservation value, 10 were rated as having medium conservation value, and 8 were rated as having low conservation value. In addition, Humboldt Bay and the Eel River Estuary were also rated as having a high conservation value. Table A2 summarizes the CHART's PCE/watershed scores and preliminary conservation value ratings of low, medium or high. Figure A9 depicts the spatial distribution of conservation ratings for the occupied HSAs within the ESU.

Marine Areas

NMFS determined that marine areas did not warrant consideration as critical habitat for this ESU.

References and Sources of Information

NMFS, 2004a. GIS and Associated Data Related to Critical Habitat Designations for Seven ESUs of Salmon and *O. mykiss* in California. Compiled by NMFS, Southwest Region.

NMFS 2003a. Updated Status of Federally Listed ESUs of West Coast Salmon and Steelhead. West Coast Salmon Biological Review Team; Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center. July 2003.

NMFS 2003b. Hatchery Broodstock Summaries and Assessments for Chum, Coho, and Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Stocks within ESUs listed under the ESA. Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Assessment Group/NMFS; Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Federal Register Notices

64 FR 50394 - California Coastal Chinook listing determination

69 FR 33102 - Proposed Listing Determinations for 27 West Coast Salmon and Steelhead ESUs

Table A1. Summary of Occupied Subbasins/Watersheds. PCE's, and Management Activities Affecting PCE's for the California Coastal Chinook ESU

Map Code	Basin	Watershed	HSA Unit	Spawning/Rearing PCEs (mi)**	Rearing/Migration PCEs (mi)**	Presence/Migration Only PCEs (mi)**	Management Activities*** FR, FC, GM, Wi, GR	
	Redwood Creek	Orick	110710	59	59	59		
	Redwood Creek	Beaver	110720	31	31	31	FR	
	Redwood Creek	Lake Prairie	110730	17	17	17	FR, WI	
	Trindad	Big Lagoon	110810	9	9 9		FR, NW	
	Trindad	Little River-Albion_Big Salmon	110820	17			FR, AG, GR, WI, NW	
	Mad River	Blue Lake	110910	21	21	21		
	Mad River	North Fork Mad River	110920	3	3 3 29 29		FR, AG, GR, WI	
	Mad River	Butler Valley	110930	29			FR, AG, GR, SC	
	Mad River	Ruth	110940					
	Eureka Plain	Eureka Plain	111000	74	74	74	UR, FC, RB, TR	
	Eel River	Ferndale	111111	47	47	47	AG, FC, GM	
	Eel River	Scotia	111112	28	28	28	GM, FR, ES	
	Eel River	Larabee Creek	111113	9	9	9	AG, FR, WI	
	Eel River	Hydesville	111121	20	20	20	FR, GM, ES, WI	
	Eel River	Bridgevelle	111122	27	27	27	FR, ES	
	Eel River	Yager Creke	111123	23	23	23	FR, AG, GR, ES	
	Eel River	Weott	111131	48	48	48	FR, ES, WI	
	Eel River	Benbow	111132	182	182	182	FR, UR, ES, WI	
	Eel River	Laytonville	111133	60	60	60	FR, UR, ES, NW	
	Eel River	Sequoia	111141	54	54	54	FR, UR, NH	
	Eel River	Spy Rock	111142	69	69	69	AG, FR, ES, NH	
	Eel River	North Fork Eel River	111150	4	4	4	AG, GR, WI, ES, PO	
	Eel River	Outlet Creek	111161	56	45	45	UR, FR, WI, NW	
	Eel River	Tomki Creek	111162	76	76	76	FR, WI, NW	
	Eel River	Lake Pillsbury	111163	12	12	12	ES, NH, NW	
	Eel River	Eden Valley	111171	40	36	36	FR, GR, WI	
	Eel River	Round Valley	111172	31	33	33	AG, FR, WI	
	Eel River	Black Butte River	111173	24	24	24	FR, GR, WI	
	Eel River	Wilderness	111174	7	7	7	FR, PO	
	Cape Mendocino	Oil Creek	111210			***************************************		
	Cape Mendocino	Capetown	111220	30	30	30	AG, GR, FR, WI	
	Cape Mendocino	Mattole River	111230	143	143	121	FR, AG, GR, WI	
	Mendocino Coast	Usal Creek	111311		an a second			
	Mendocino Coast	Wages Creek	111312	5	5	5	FR	
	Mendocino Coast	Ten Mile River	111313	49	49	49	FR, GR, PO	
1	Mendocino Coast	Noyo River	111320	30	41	41	FR, UR, NW	
	Mendocino Coast	Big River	111330	35	35	35	FR, PO, WL	
9	Mendocino Coast	Albion River	111340	13	13	13	FR, UR, NW	
	Mendocino Coast	Navarro River	111350	36	36	36	AG, WI, RB, GR	
	Mendocino Coast	Greenwood Creek	111361					
	Mendocino Coast	Elk Creek	111362					
	Mendocino Coast	Alder Creek	111363					
	Mendocino Coast	Brush Creek	111364		***************************************	***************************************		
	Mendocino Coast	Garcia River	111370	24	26	26	FR, AG, WI	
	Mendocino Coast	North Fork Gualala River	111381					

Map Code	Basin	Watershed	HSA Unit	Spawning/Rearing PCEs (mi)**	Rearing/Migration PCEs (mi)**	Presence/Migration Only PCEs (mi)**	Management Activities***
	Mendocino Coast	Rockpile Creek	111382				
	Mendocino Coast	Buckeye Creek	111383	-			
	Mendocino Coast	Wheatfield Fork	111384				
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Mendocino Coast	Gualala	111385				
.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Mendocino Coast	Russian Gulch	111390				
	Russian River	Guerneville	111411	36	43	43	UR, FR, NW
	Russian River	Austin Creek	111412	3	3	· 3	UR, GR, NW
	Russian River	Laguna	111421				
	Russian River	Santa Rosa	111422	3	10	10	UR, AG, NW
	Russian River	Mark West	111423	0	4	4	UR, FC, AG , WI
	Russian River	Warm Springs	111424	14	14	14	AG, UR, WI
	Russian River	Geyserville	111425	36	36	36	AG, GM, GR, UR
	Russian River	Ukiah	111426	7			10-0-1-10-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-
	Russian River	Coyote Valley	111431	36	36	36	UR, AG, FC, GM, NH
	Russian River	Forsythe Creek	111433	15	15	15	AG, FR, GR

^{*}Total Stream Miles calculated from blueline streams represented on 1:100,000 USGS Topographic Maps

***Management Activities Codes:

AG - Agriculture
CM - Channel Modification
ES - Exotic / Invasive Species
FC - Flood Control Channel
FR - Forestry
GM - Sand and Gravel Mining

GR - Grazing HD - Hydroelectric Dam

NH - Non-hydro Dam

NW - Non-agriculture Withdrawls / Impoundments

PO - Poaching RB - Road Building / Maintenance

SP Septic System Failure / Containation TR - River, Estuary, Ocean Traffic UR - Urbanization WI - Agriculture Withdrawls / Impoundments WL - Wetland Loss / Removal

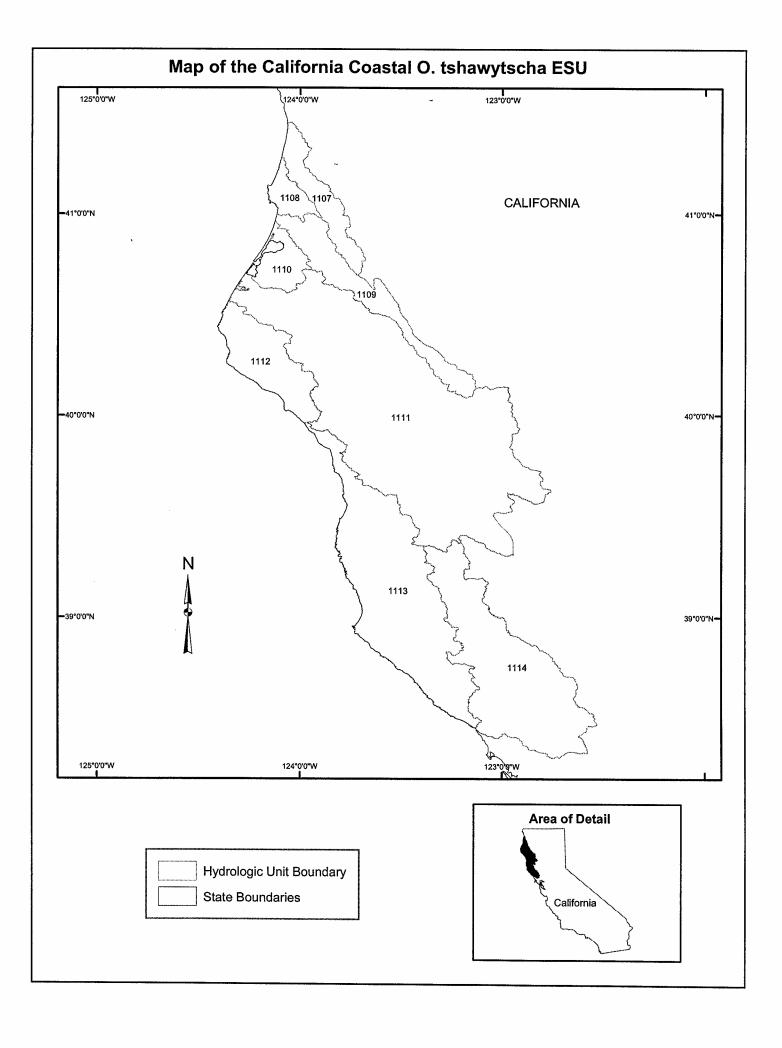
^{**}Overlap of stream miles may occur betweeen the three habitat types.

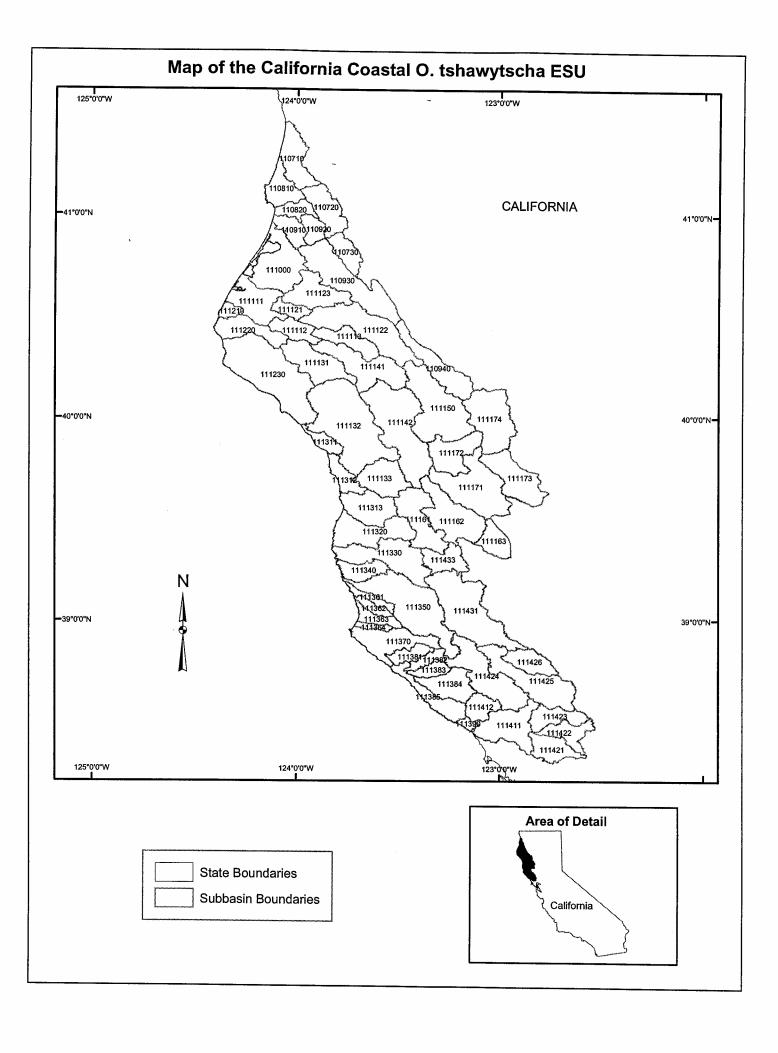
Table A2. Summary of Preliminary Scores and Overall Rankings of Conservation Values for Critical Habitat for HSA watersheds occupied by the California Coastal Chinook ESU

Map Code	Basin	Watershed	Calwater Unit	Total Score (0- 18)	Comments / Other Considerations	Preliminary Conservation Value
	Redwood Creek	Orick	110710	14		High
	Redwood Creek	Beaver	110720	13		High
	Redwood Creek	Lake Prairie	110730	11		Medium
	Trindad	Big Lagoon	110810	9		Low
	Trindad	Little River-Albion_Big Salmon	110820	13		High
	Mad River	Blue Lake	110910	14		High
	Mad River	North Fork Mad River	110920	12		High
	Mad River	Butler Valley	110930	11		High
	Mad River	Ruth	110940	0		Not Occupied
***************************************	Eureka Plain	Eureka Plain	111000	13		High
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Eel River	Ferndale	111111	11		Medium
	Eel River	Scotia	111112	11		Medium
	Eel River	Larabee Creek	111113	10		Medium
	Eel River	Hydesville	111121	14		High
	Eel River	Bridgevelle	111122	9		Low
***************************************	Eel River	Yager Creke	111123	12		High
	Eel River	Weott	111131	13		High
***************************************	Eel River	Benbow	111132	14		High
***************************************	Eel River	Laytonville	111133	14		High
***************************************	Eel River	Sequoia	111141	13		High
	Eel River	Spy Rock	111142	12		High
	Eel River	North Fork Eel River	111150	13		High
	Eel River	Outlet Creek	111161	15		High
	Eel River	Tomki Creek	111162	13		High
	Eel River	Lake Pillsbury	111163	12		High
	Eel River	Eden Valley	111171	10		Medium
	Eel River	Round Valley	111172	12		High
	Eel River	Black Butte River	111173	9		Low
	Eel River	Wilderness	111174	8		Low
***************************************	Cape Mendocino	Oil Creek	111210	0		Not Occupied
	Cape Mendocino	Capetown	111220	12		High
	Cape Mendocino	Mattole River	111230	15		High
	Mendocino Coast	Usal Creek	111311	0		Not Occupied
	Mendocino Coast	Wages Creek	111312	7		Low
	Mendocino Coast	Ten Mile River	111313	13		High
	Mendocino Coast	Noyo River	111320	11		Medium
	Mendocino Coast	Big River	111330	11		Medium

Mendocino Coast	Albion River	111340	10	Medium
Mendocino Coast	Navarro River	111350	7	Low
Mendocino Coast	Greenwood Creek	111361	0	_ Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Eik Creek	111362	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Alder Creek	111363	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Brush Creek	111364	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Garcia River	111370	15	High
Mendocino Coast	North Fork Gualala River	111381	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Rockpile Creek	111382	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Buckeye Creek	111383	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Wheatfield Fork	111384	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Gualala	111385	0	Not Occupied
Mendocino Coast	Russian Gulch	111390	0	Not Occupied
Russian River	Guerneville	111411	12	High
Russian River	Austin Creek	111412	4	· Low
Russian River	Laguna	111421	0	Not Occupied
Russian River	Santa Rosa	111422	9	Low
Russian River	Mark West	111423	11	Medium
Russian River	Warm Springs	111424	12	High
Russian River	Geyserville	111425	12	High
Russian River	Ukiah	111426	0	Not Occupied
Russian River	Coyote Valley	111431	13	High
Russian River	Forsythe Creek	111433	11	Medium
Outside ESU	Lake Pillsbury	111163		High

Figures A1 and A2: CALWATER Hydrologic Units and Hydrologic Subareas within the range of the California Coastal chinook salmon ESU





Maps A1 through A8: California Coast chinook ESU - Areas (Units) Under Consideration for Critical Habitat Designation

A1 - Unit 1107 (Redwood Creek)

A2 - Unit 1108 (Trinidad)

A3 - Unit 1109 (Mad River)

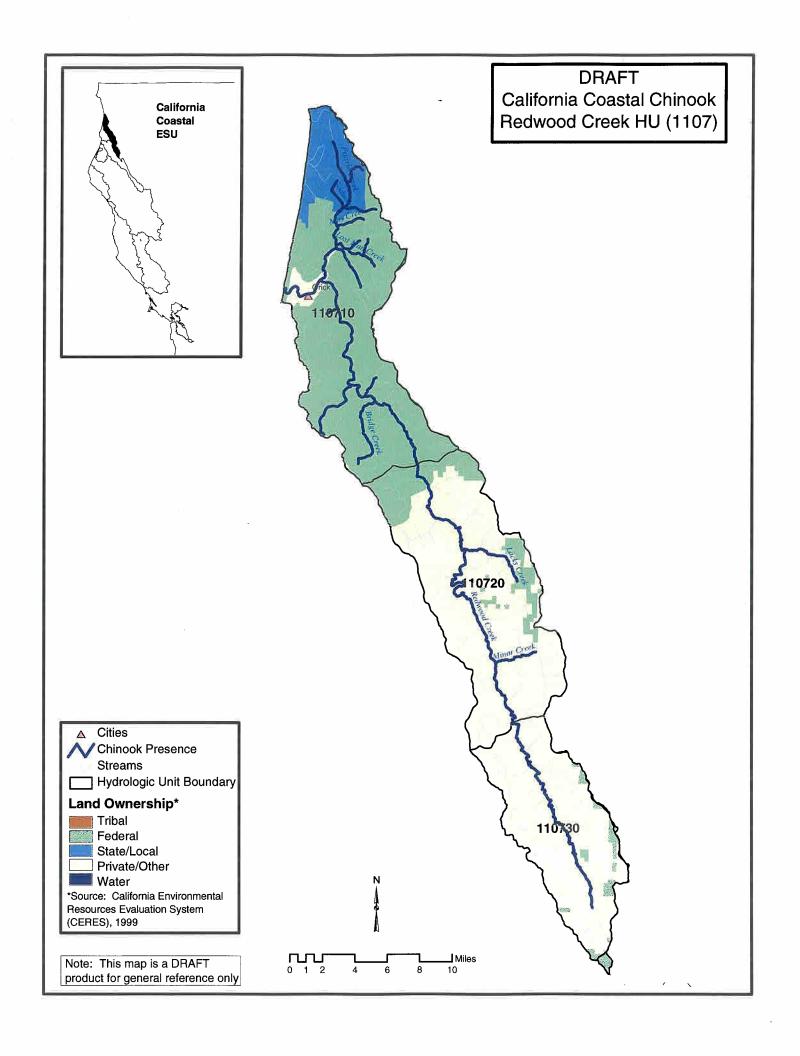
A4 - Unit 1110 (Eureka Plain)

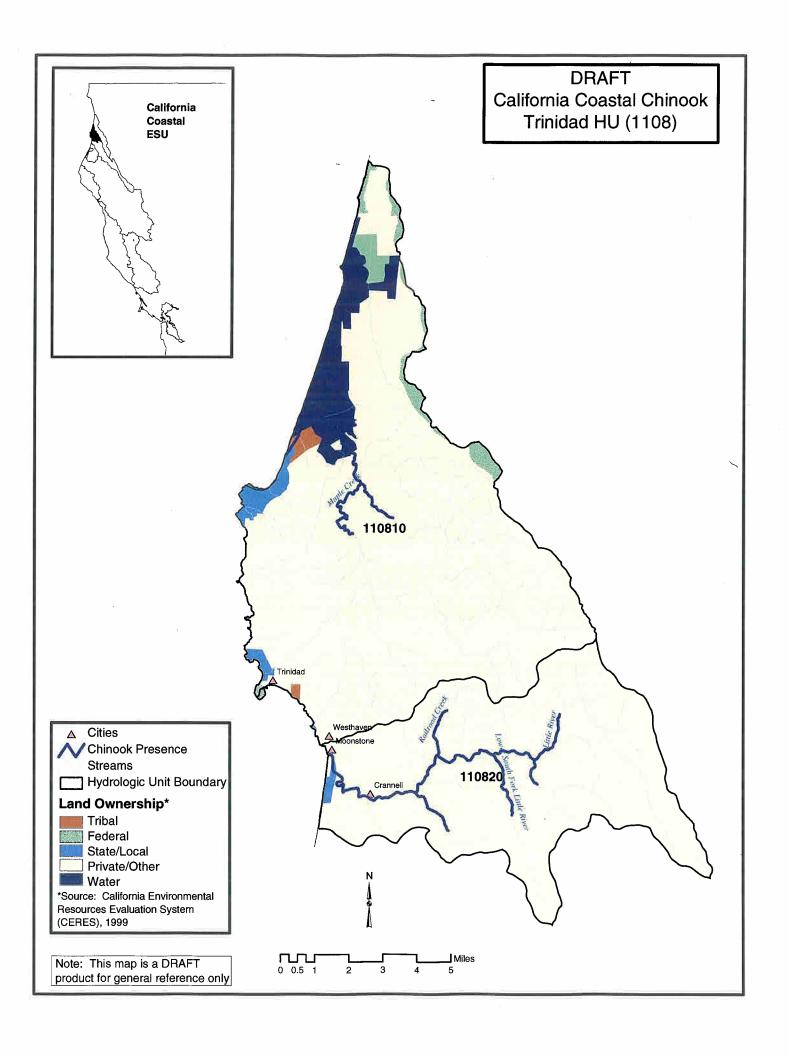
A5 - Unit 1111 (Eel River)

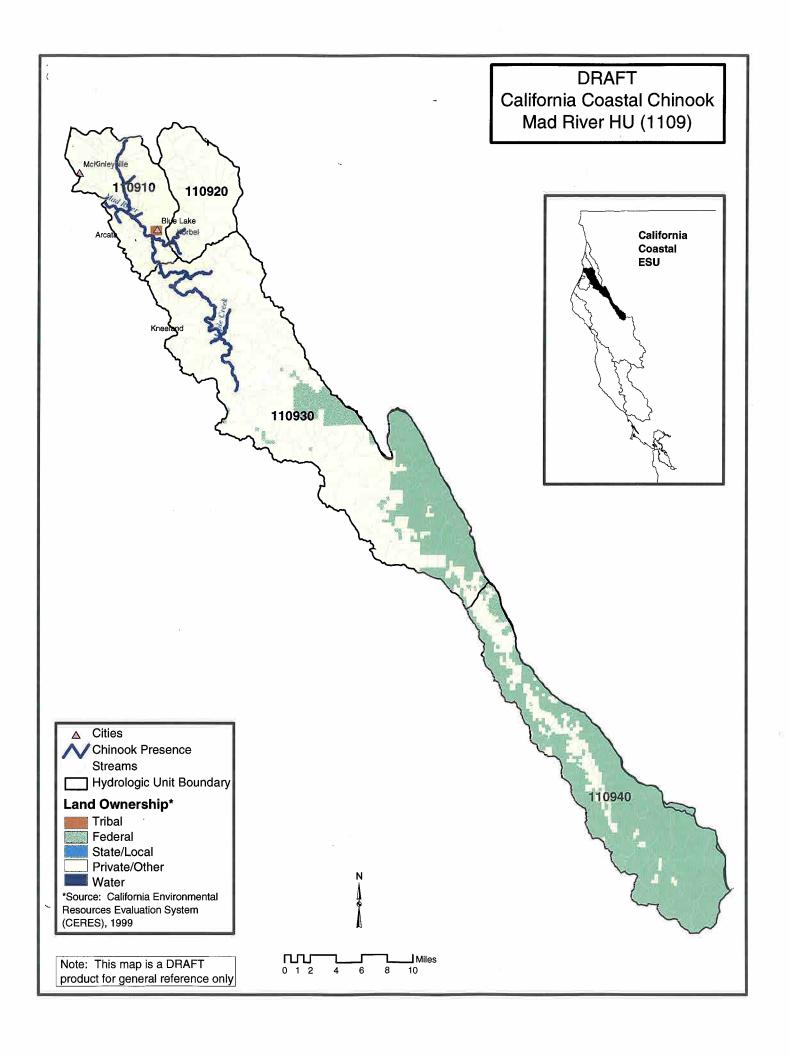
A6 - Unit 1112 (Cape Mendocino)

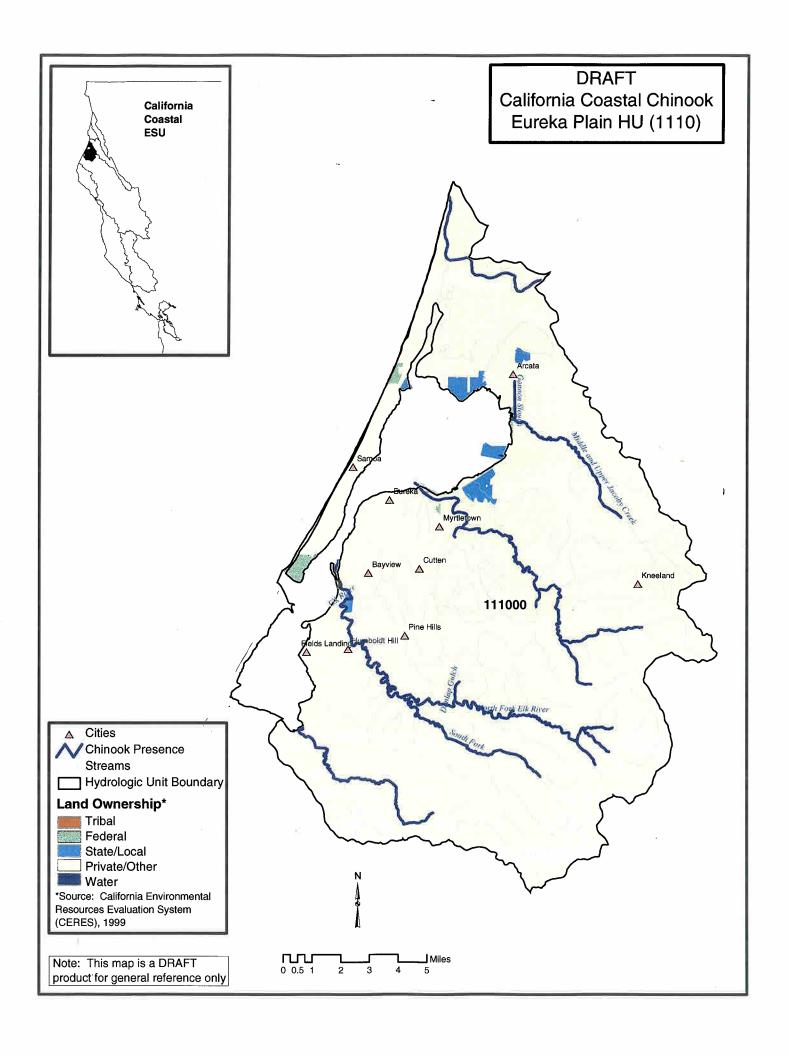
A7 - Unit 1113 (Mendocino Coast)

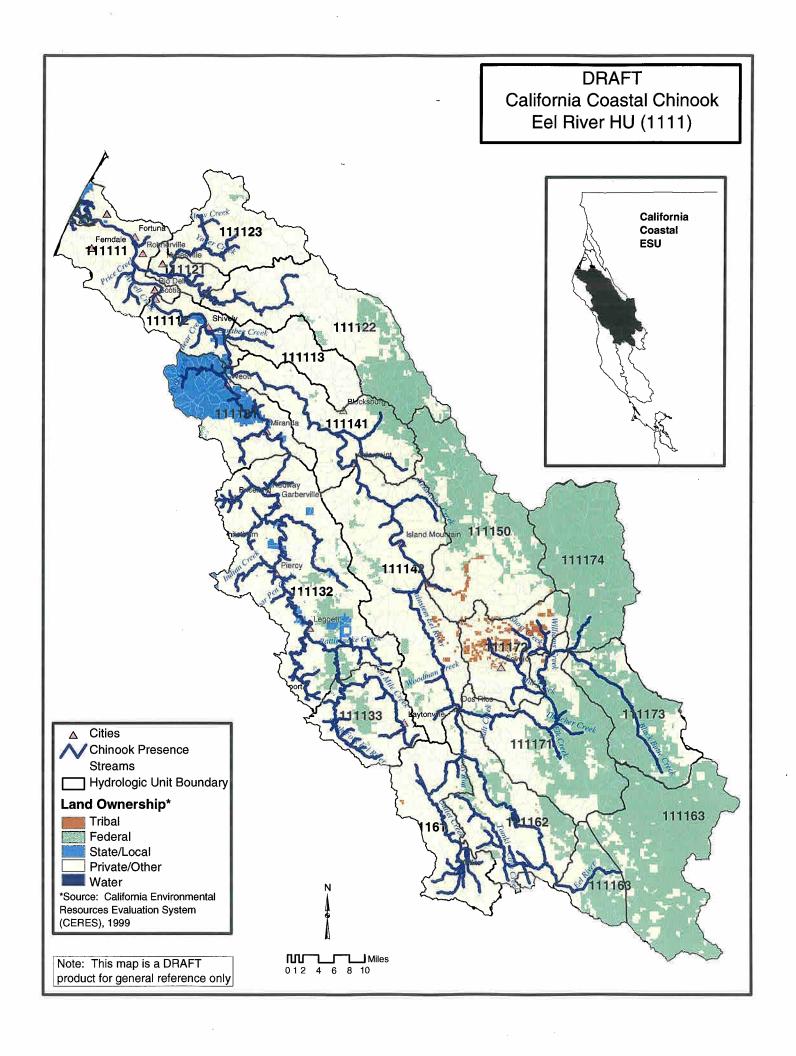
A8 - Unit 1114 (Russian River)

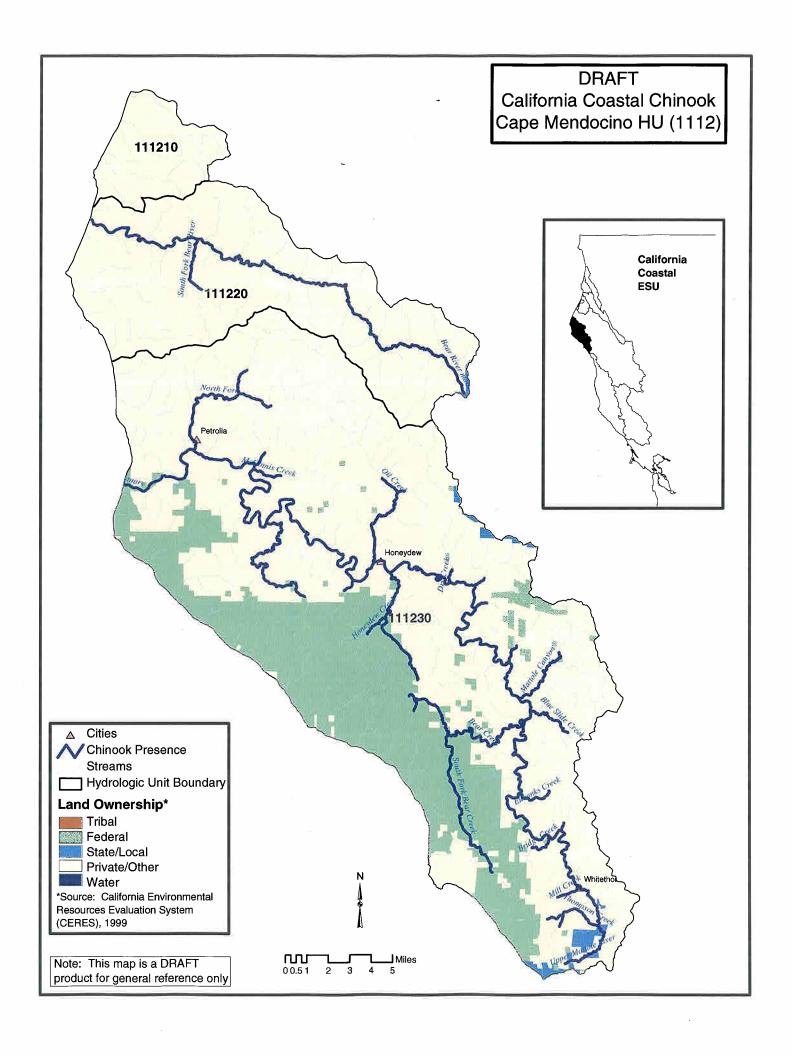


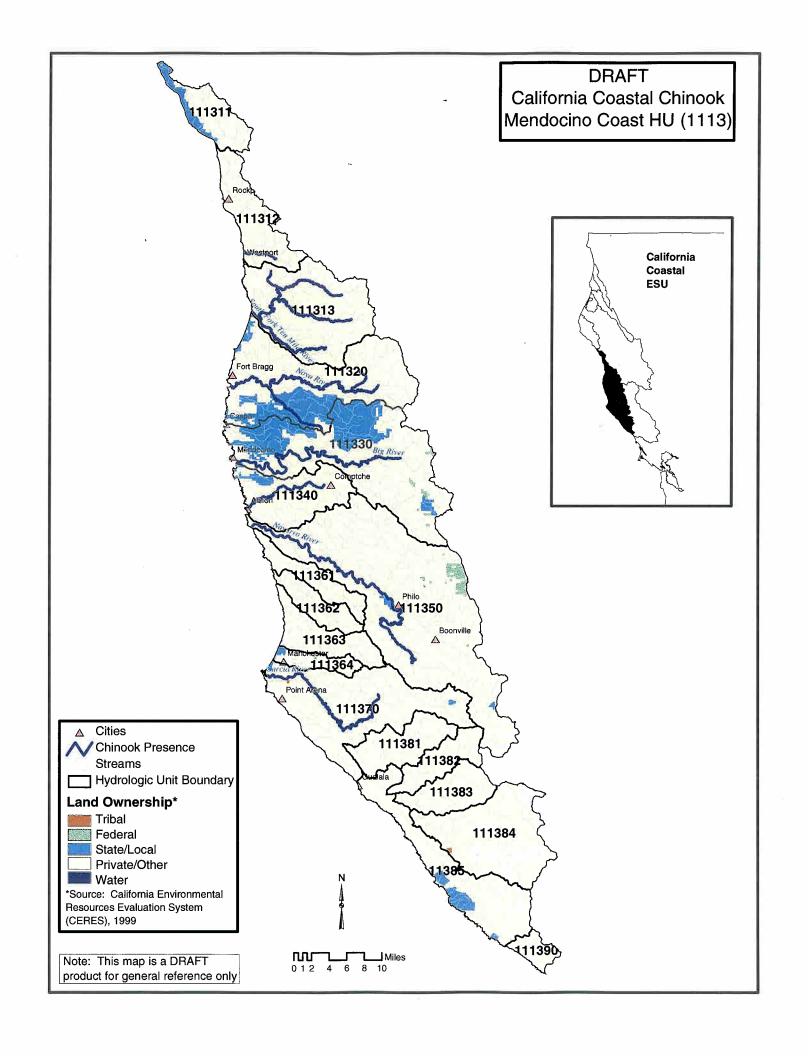


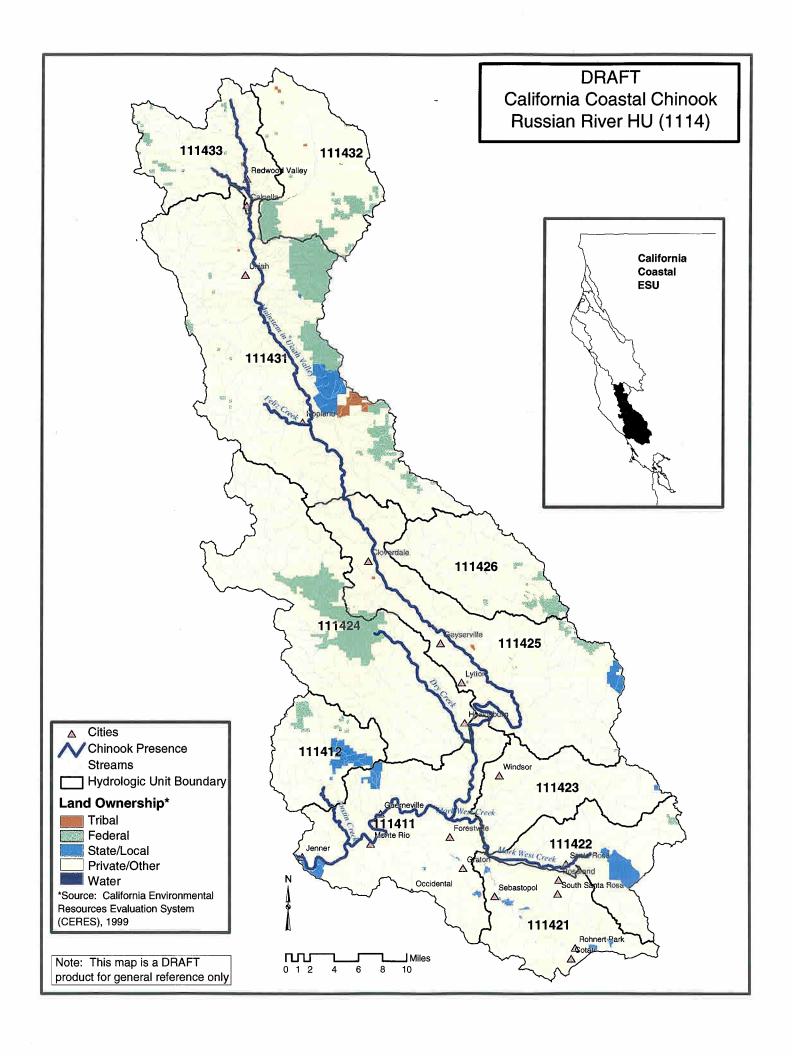












Map A9. Preliminary CHART Conservation Value Ratings for CALWATER HSA Watersheds occupied by the California Coast chinook ESU

